

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claim 17 with the following amended claim:

17. (Amended) A filter assembly [as set forth in claim 9] for filtering a fluid, said assembly comprising:

a plurality of wave coils arranged axially to define a filter element having first and second ends and an inner cavity;

a support engaging one of said first and second ends for supporting said wave coils and for diverting the fluid inside or outside said inner cavity of said filter element;

each of said wave coils including at least one crest and at least one trough with said at least one crest of one wave coil engaging said at least one trough of an adjacent wave coil to define at least one filtration aperture between each crest and each trough of adjacent wave coils for filtering the fluid diverted by said support;

a base plate engaging one of said first and second ends of said filter element; and

a flange member engaging the other of said first and second ends relative to said base plate, said flange member being adjustably engaged relative to said base plate for modifying a length L, extending between said first and second ends of said filter element, to reduce and expand said at least one filtration aperture;

wherein said flange member comprises a flange collar and a yoke extending from said collar toward said base plate thereby defining a shoulder portion of said flange member between said flange collar and said yoke, said shoulder [portion] portion of said flange member supporting the other of said first and second ends of said filter element relative to said base plate.

Please add the following new claims:

76. (New) A filter apparatus for filtering a fluid, said apparatus comprising:

(A) a filter canister comprising;

an inlet for receiving the fluid to be filtered and an outlet for delivering the fluid that has been filtered wherein said inlet of said filter canister is oval-shaped for imparting a vortex onto the fluid received into said filter canister for filtering; and

(B) a filter assembly disposed in said filter canister, said assembly comprising;

a plurality of wave coils arranged axially to define a filter element having first and second ends and an inner cavity;

a support engaging one of said first and second ends for supporting said wave coils and for diverting the fluid inside or outside said inner cavity of said filter element; and

each of said wave coils including at least one crest and at least one trough with said at least one crest of one wave coil engaging said at least one trough of an adjacent wave coil to define at least one filtration aperture between each crest and each trough of adjacent wave coils for filtering the fluid diverted by said support.

77. (New) A filter apparatus as set forth in claim 76 further comprising an adjustment mechanism engaging at least one of said first and second ends for modifying a length L, extending between said first and second ends of said filter element, to reduce and expand said at least one filtration aperture.

78. (New) A filter apparatus as set forth in claim 77 further comprising a controller in communication with said adjustment mechanism such that adjustment mechanism automatically modifies said length L of said filter element to reduce and expand said at least one filtration aperture.

79. (New) A filter apparatus as set forth in claim 76 further comprising an inlet valve disposed at said inlet of said filter canister for isolating said filter canister from the fluid to be filtered.

80. (New) A filter apparatus as set forth in claim 79 further comprising a controller in communication with said inlet valve for automatically isolating said filter canister from the fluid to be filtered.

81. (New) A filter apparatus as set forth in claim 80 further comprising a first pressure sensor disposed at said inlet of said filter canister for determining an inlet pressure and a second pressure sensor disposed at said outlet of said filter canister for determining an outlet pressure wherein said first and second pressure sensors are in communication with said controller such that said controller activates said valve to

isolate said filter canister from the fluid to be filtered when said outlet pressure is less than said inlet pressure by a predetermined amount.

82. (New) A filter apparatus as set forth in claim 81 further comprising an outlet valve disposed at said outlet of said filter canister for allowing said filter canister to selectively receive fluid for back-washing said filter element when said outlet pressure is less than said inlet pressure by said predetermined amount.

83. (New) A filter assembly for filtering a fluid, said assembly comprising:

a plurality of wave coils arranged axially to define a filter element having first and second ends and an inner cavity;

a support engaging one of said first and second ends for supporting said wave coils and for diverting the fluid inside or outside said inner cavity of said filter element; and

each of said wave coils including at least one crest and at least one trough with said at least one crest of one wave coil engaging said at least one trough of an adjacent wave coil to define at least one filtration aperture between each crest and each trough of adjacent wave coils for filtering the fluid diverted by said support;

wherein said wave coils extend continuously in an endless path through said at least one crest and said at least one trough and between said first and second ends of said filter element.

84. (New) A filter assembly as set forth in claim 83 wherein said wave coils extend continuously in a helix through said endless path between said first and second ends.
